



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMM.

Public Hearing Feb. 22, 2013

Testimony in Favor of:

SB 144 AAC Voting by Individuals With Disabilities

HB 5359 AAC Electors Who Move But Remain Within the Same Voting District

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of the GAE Committee, My name is George Cody, Registrar of Voters in New Canaan and Vice-Chair of the ROVAC Legislative Committee. Both of these bills address important elements of the voting process.

SB 44, addresses Voting by those with Disabilities by assuring that those with a disability be allowed to go to the front of any line. In our consultation with Disability agencies, they have stressed their desire that disabled voters be treated no differently than any other voter. The special equipment available in every polling place allows those with disabilities the right and a method to vote independently and privately. Any and all requested assistance is available from polling place officials to meet any requested help. We feel that existing procedures are in place to meet these needs, but would support any changes that the Disabled or the Disabled agencies feel are necessary.

HB 5359 As with the previous bill, procedures are in place to allow an elector to change his address at the polls and to vote immediately if that change is within the same voting district. A bill introduced last year, but lost in the closing days to the calendar, would have further simplified the procedure by allowing the voter to complete the same form used upon registration right at the polls. This bill needs clarification as to what specific problem the bill intends to address.

As I understand the bills, both address situations which are already covered under current polling place procedures, As such, both would gain our support if the Committee felt it necessary to bring them forward.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.